

Holy Name Oakley SSVP

The Holy Name Parish was amalgamated into the Parish of St Margaret's Dunfermline in September of 2018 but the SSVP retained both conferences.

St Margaret's SSVP was formed on the first of January 1867 and was the only conference in Fife for many years.

It only took 82 years for Holy Name to follow and on the first of January 1949 a conference was founded in Oakley.

The first president was Mr Gerry Slavin and the first Spiritual Director was Father John Fusco.

Both Fr. Fusco and Gerry attended their first meeting of the Fife Shire Group Particular Council (as it was known then). Fr Fusco gave the spiritual talk and said how happy he was to be the Spiritual Director for the Holy Name Conference.

At a meeting of the same Group Council in December 1950 the Holy Name President Brother James Canning reported that the conference now had 12 members and had begun to take the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima round all the homes in the parish. The rosary was recited in each person's home. This practice was carried on for many years.

In 1951 they organised a retreat for the men of the parish to Craighead - see photo below.



The Conference has worked continuously for the people of Holy Name and we also have two twin conferences that we support in India. We pay for students to go to school or college and for some to become apprentices. That help continues through the generosity of our parish family and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

The work of the conference continues today. It is so true when it was said that we will always have the poor with us. It seems now there are more and there are many different types of poverty. Poverty of spirit, food poverty, and financial poverty.

We thank you for your contributions and we will continue to pray for you all and ask for the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul and our founder Blessed Fredrick Ozanam especially during this time of Covid.

Written by Tom Canning President of Holy Name SSVP Conference.